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Title of the Invention: LIGHT EMITTING ELEMENT AND LIGHT EMITTING DEVICE  
USING THE SAME

VERIFICATION OF TRANSLATION

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Sir:

I, Ryoji Nomura, C/O Semiconductor Energy Laboratory Co., Ltd. 398, Hase, Atsugi-shi, Kanagawa-ken 243-0036 Japan, a translator, herewith declare:

that I am well acquainted with both the Japanese and English Languages;

that I am the translator of the attached English translation of the Japanese Patent Application No. 2004-216503 filed on July 23, 2004; and

that to the best of my knowledge and belief the following is a true and correct English translation of the Japanese Patent Application No. 2004-216503 filed on July 23, 2004.

I further declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

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[Claim 1]

A light emitting element comprising:

a first layer, a second layer, and a third layer which are provided between a first electrode and a second electrode that face to each other,

wherein:

the first layer generates a hole;

the second layer generates an electron;

the third layer comprises a light emitting substance;

the first layer, the second layer, and the third layer are laminated in that order;

the first layer is in contact with the first electrode;

the third layer is in contact with the second electrode; and

the second layer and the third layer are connected to each other so that the electron generated in the second layer is injected to the third layer when a voltage is applied such that a potential of the second electrode is higher than that of the first electrode.

[Claim 2]

A light emitting element comprising:

a first layer, a second layer, and a third layer which are provided between a first electrode and a second electrode that face to each other,

wherein:

the first layer comprises a first substance which has a hole transporting property higher than an electron transporting property thereof and a second substrate which shows an electron accepting property to the first substance;

the second layer comprises a third substance which has an electron transporting property higher than a hole transporting property thereof and a fourth substrate which shows an electron donating property to the third substance;

the third layer comprises a light emitting substance;

the first layer, the second layer, and the third layer are laminated in that order;

the first layer is in contact with the first electrode;

the third layer is in contact with the second electrode; and

the second layer and the third layer are connected to each other so that the electron generated in the second layer is injected to the third layer when a voltage is applied such that a potential of the second electrode is higher than that of the first electrode.

[Claim 3]

The light emitting element according to claim 2, wherein a molar ratio of the second substance to the first substance is 0.5 to 2.

[Claim 4]

A light emitting element comprising:

a first layer, a second layer, and a third layer which are provided between a first electrode and a second electrode that face to each other,

wherein:

the first layer comprises a p-type semiconductor;

the second layer comprises an n-type semiconductor;

the third layer comprises a light emitting substance;

the first layer, the second layer, and the third layer are laminated in that order;

the first layer is in contact with the first electrode;

the third layer is in contact with the second electrode; and

the second layer and the third layer are connected to each other so that the electron generated in the second layer is injected to the third layer when a voltage is applied such that a potential of the second electrode is higher than that of the first electrode.

[Claim 5]

A light emitting element comprising:

a first layer, a second layer, and a third layer which are provided between a first electrode and a second electrode that face to each other,

wherein:

the first layer comprises 4,4'-bis[N-(1-naphthyl)-N-phenylamino]biphenyl and molybdenum oxide;

the second layer comprises tris(8-quinolinolato)aluminum and lithium;  
the third layer comprises a light emitting substance;  
the first layer, the second layer, and the third layer are laminated in that order;  
the first layer is in contact with the first electrode;  
the third layer is in contact with the second electrode; and

the second layer and the third layer are connected to each other so that the electron generated in the second layer is injected to the third layer when a voltage is applied such that a potential of the second electrode is higher than that of the first electrode.

[Claim 6]

The light emitting element according to claim 5, wherein a molar ratio of molybdenum oxide to 4,4'-bis[N-(1-naphthyl)-N-phenylamino]biphenyl is 0.5 to 2.

[Claim 6]

A light emitting element comprising:

a first layer, a second layer, and a third layer which are provided between a first electrode and a second electrode that face to each other,

wherein:

the first electrode comprises a conductive material having a high reflectance;

the second electrode comprises a conductive material that can transmit a visible light;

the first layer comprises a first substance which has a hole transporting property higher than an electron transporting property thereof and a second substrate which shows an electron accepting property to the first substance;

the second layer comprises a third substance which has an electron transporting property higher than a hole transporting property thereof and a fourth substrate which shows an electron donating property to the third substance;

the third layer comprises x pieces of layers (x is an arbitrary positive integer) including a light emitting layer;

the first layer, the second layer, and the third layer are laminated in that order;

the first layer is in contact with the first electrode;

a first layer in the third layer is in contact with the second layer;

the  $x^{\text{th}}$  layer in the third layer is in contact with the second electrode;

$y$  pieces of layers ( $y \leq x$ , and  $y$  is a positive integer) are provided between the light emitting layer and the second layer;

the second layer and the first layer in the third layer are connected to each other so that an electron generated in the second layer is injected to the first layer in the third layer when a voltage is applied such that a potential of the second electrode is higher than that of the first electrode;

a thickness of the first layer and a thickness of the second layer satisfy expressions 1, 2 and 3 below:

$$n_i d_i + n_{ii} d_{ii} + \sum_{k=1}^y n_k d_k + n_j d_j = \frac{(2m-1)\lambda}{4} \quad \cdot \cdot \cdot 1$$

$$0 \leq d_j \leq d_{\text{emi}} \quad \cdot \cdot \cdot 2$$

$$d_i \geq d_{ii} \quad \cdot \cdot \cdot 3$$

wherein in the expressions 1, 2 and 3,  $n_i$  indicates a refractive index of the first layer;  $d_i$ , a thickness of the first layer;  $n_{ii}$ , a refractive index of the second layer;  $d_{ii}$ , a thickness of the second layer;  $n_k$ , a refractive index of a  $k^{\text{th}}$  layer of the layers sandwiched between the light emitting layer and the second layer;  $d_k$ , a thickness of the  $k^{\text{th}}$  layer of the layers sandwiched between the light emitting layer and the second layer;  $n_j$ , a refractive index of the light emitting layer;  $d_j$ , a distance between a surface of the light emitting layer in the first electrode side and a light emitting region;  $\lambda$ , a wavelength of light emission from the light emitting element;  $m$ , an arbitrary positive integer; and  $d_{\text{emi}}$ , a thickness of the light emitting layer.

[Document Name] Specification

[Title of the Invention] LIGHT EMITTING ELEMENT AND LIGHT EMITTING  
DEVICE USING THE SAME

[Technical Field]

[0001]

The present invention relates to a light emitting element comprising a layer that includes a light emitting substance between a pair of electrodes, and in particular, relates to a structure of a light emitting element.

[Background Art]

[0002]

In recent years, many light emitting elements used for display devices and the like have a structure in which a layer that includes a light emitting substance is sandwiched between a pair of electrodes. Such a light emitting element emits light when an exciton, which is formed by recombination of an electron injected from one electrode and a hole injected from the other electrode, returns to a ground state.

[0003]

Many of these light emitting elements have a problem in that the driving voltage is increased with the accumulation of light emitting time.

[0004]

As an example of a technique to solve this kind of problem, patent document 1 discloses, for example, an organic EL element to which a compound with a specific structure is applied, wherein the increase in driving voltage in driving the organic EL element and the like are suppressed.

[0005]

[Patent Document 1]: International Patent Publication No. WO98/30071

It is an object of the present invention to provide a light emitting element showing a slight increase in driving voltage with the accumulation of light emitting time. It is another object of the invention to provide a light emitting element showing a slight increase in resistance value with the increase in film thickness.

[Means for Solving the Problems]

[0007]

A light emitting element of the present invention includes a first layer, a second layer, and a third layer between a first electrode and a second electrode that are provided to face each other. The first, second, and third layers are laminated to one another while sandwiching the second layer between the first and third layers. The first layer is in contact with the first electrode, and the third layer is in contact with the second electrode. The first layer is a layer that generates holes while the second layer is a layer that generates electrons. The third layer is a layer that includes a light emitting substance. The second layer and the third layer are connected to each other so as to inject electrons generated in the second layer into the third layer when applying the voltage to the light emitting element such that a potential of the second electrode is higher than that of the first electrode.

[0008]

A light emitting element of the present invention includes a first layer, a second layer, and a third layer between a first electrode and a second electrode that are provided to face each other. The first, second, and third layers are laminated to one another while sandwiching the second layer between the first and third layers. The first layer is in contact with the first electrode, and the third layer is in contact with the second electrode. The first layer is a layer that includes a substance of which a hole transporting property is higher than an electron transporting property and a substance having an electron accepting property with respect to the substance. The second layer is a layer that includes a substance of which an electron transporting property is higher than a hole transporting property and a substance having an electron donating property with respect to the substance. Also, the third layer is a layer that includes a light emitting substance. The second and third layers are connected to each other so as to inject electrons generated in the second layer into the third layer when applying the voltage to the light emitting element such that a potential of the second electrode is higher than that of the first electrode.



[0009]

A light emitting element of the present invention includes a first layer, a second layer, and a third layer between a first electrode and a second electrode that are provided to face each other. The first, second and third layers are laminated to one another while sandwiching the second layer between the first and third layers. The first layer is in contact with the first electrode, and the third layer is in contact with the second electrode. The first layer is a layer that includes a p-type semiconductor, and the second layer is a layer that includes an n-type semiconductor. Also, the third layer is a layer that includes a light emitting substance. The second and third layers are connected to each other so as to inject electrons generated in the second layer into the third layer when applying the voltage to the light emitting element such that a potential of the second electrode is higher than that of the first electrode.

[0010]

A light emitting element of the present invention includes a first layer, a second layer, and a third layer between a first electrode and a second electrode that are provided to face each other. The first, second, and third layers are laminated to one another while sandwiching the second layer between the first and third layers. The first layer is a layer that includes a substance of which a hole transporting property is higher than an electron transporting property and a substance having an electron accepting property with respect to the substance. The second layer is a layer that includes a substance of which an electron transporting property is larger than a hole transporting property and a substance having an electron donating property with respect to the substance. The third layer has x pieces of layers (x is an arbitrary positive integer) including a light emitting layer. A first layer included in the third layer is in contact with the second layer, and the x<sup>th</sup> layer thereof is in contact with the second electrode. Here, the first electrode includes a conductive material having high reflectance. There are y pieces of layers ( $y \leq x$  wherein y is a positive integer) between the light emitting layer and the second layer. Additionally, the second layer and the one layer of the third layer are connected to each other so as to inject electrons generated in the second layer into the first layer of the third layer when applying the

voltage to the light emitting element such that a potential of the second electrode is higher than that of the first electrode. Also, the thicknesses of the first and second layers are adjusted to satisfy the following expressions 1, 2 and 3:

[0011]

$$n_i d_i + n_{ii} d_{ii} + \sum_{k=1}^y n_k d_k + n_j d_j = \frac{(2m-1)\lambda}{4} \quad \cdot \cdot \cdot 1$$

$$0 \leq d_j \leq d_{emi} \quad \cdot \cdot \cdot 2$$

$$d_i \geq d_{ii} \quad \cdot \cdot \cdot 3$$

[0012]

In the expressions 1, 2 and 3,  $n_i$  indicates the refractive index of the first layer;  $d_i$ , the thickness of the first layer;  $n_{ii}$ , the refractive index of the second layer;  $d_{ii}$ , the thickness of the second layer;  $n_k$ , the refractive index of the  $k^{\text{th}}$  layer of the layers sandwiched between the light emitting layer and the second layer;  $d_k$ , the thickness of the  $k^{\text{th}}$  layer of the layers sandwiched between the light emitting layer and the second layer;  $n_j$ , the refractive index of the light emitting layer;  $d_j$ , a distance between a first-electrode-side surface of the light emitting layer and a light emitting region;  $\lambda$ , a wavelength of light emission from the light emitting element;  $m$ , a given positive integer.  $d_{emi}$  is the thickness of the light emitting layer.

[Effect of the Invention]

[0013]

According to the present invention, a highly reliable light emitting element having slight increase in driving voltage with the accumulation of light emitting time can be obtained.

[0014]

In addition, according to the present invention, a light emitting element having slight increase in resistance value that is dependent on the thickness of a layer generating holes can be obtained. As a result, a light emitting element in which a distance between electrodes can be changed easily can be obtained. Also, by

increasing the distance between the electrodes, the short-circuiting between the electrodes can be prevented. Additionally, by controlling the distance between the electrodes, an optical distance can be easily controlled such that the light extraction efficiency can be increased to a maximal value. In addition, by controlling the distance between the electrodes, an optical distance can be controlled easily so that the variation in emission spectrum depending on an angle of seeing a light emitting surface is reduced.

[0015]

Furthermore, by applying a light emitting element obtained according to the present invention to a light emitting device, a highly reliable light emitting device that can withstand long-time use can be obtained. Moreover, by applying the light emitting element obtained according to the invention to a light emitting device having a display function, it is possible to obtain a light emitting device capable of displaying high-definition images with slight variation in the emission spectrum that depends on an angle of seeing a light emitting surface, wherein light can be emitted to the outside efficiently.

[0016]

An embodiment mode of the present invention will hereinafter be described. Note that it is easily understood by those who skilled in the art that the present invention can be carried out in a variety of modes and the embodiments and details can be modified in various ways without departing from the purpose and the scope of the invention. Therefore, the present invention should not be interpreted as being limited to the description of the embodiment modes to be given below.

[0017]

[Embodiment Mode 1]

One embodiment mode of the present invention will be described with reference to a cross sectional view of a light emitting element as shown in FIG. 1.

[0018]

A first layer 111, a second layer 112, and a third layer 113 are provided between a first electrode 101 and a second electrode 102. The first layer 111, the

second layer 112, and the third layer 113 are laminated to one another in that order. The first layer 111 is in contact with the first electrode 101, and the third layer 113 is in contact with the second electrode 102.

[0019]

The light emitting element of the present embodiment mode is operated as follows. First, when the voltage is applied to the light emitting element such that a potential of the second electrode 102 is higher than that of the first electrode 101, holes are injected into the first electrode 101 from the first layer 111 while electrons are injected to the third layer 113 from the second layer 112. Also, holes are injected to the third layer 113 from the second electrode 102. The holes injected from the second electrode 102 and the electrons injected from the second layer 112 are recombined in the third layer 113 so that a light emitting substance is excited. The light emitting substance emits light when returning to a ground state from the excited state.

[0020]

Thereinafter, the various layers, electrodes and the like will be specifically described below.

[0021]

The first layer 111 is a layer that generates holes. As such a layer, for example, a layer containing a substance with a hole transporting property and a substance having an electron accepting property with respect to the substance with the hole transporting property can be given. Here, the substance with the hole transporting property indicates a substance of which a transporting property is higher than an electron transporting property. The substance with the hole transporting property is not particularly limited. For example, an aromatic amine compound such as 4,4'-bis[*N*-(1-naphthyl)-*N*-phenylamino]biphenyl (abbreviation:  $\alpha$ -NPD), 4,4'-bis[*N*-(3-methylphenyl)-*N*-phenylamino]biphenyl (abbreviation: TPD), 4,4',4''-tris(*N,N*-diphenylamino)triphenylamine (abbreviation: TDATA), 4,4',4''-tris[*N*-(3-methylphenyl)-*N*-phenylamino]triphenylamine (abbreviation: MTDATA), and

4,4'-bis[N-{4-(*N,N*-di-*m*-tolylamino)phenyl}-*N*-phenylamino]biphenyl (abbreviation: DNTPD); and a phthalocyanine compound such as phthalocyanine (abbreviation: H<sub>2</sub>Pc), copper phthalocyanine (abbreviation: CuPc) and vanadyl phthalocyanine (abbreviation: VOPc) can be used. Also, the substance having the electron accepting property with respect to the substance with the hole transporting property is not particularly limited. For example, molybdenum oxide, vanadium oxide, 7,7,8,8-tetracyanoquinodimethane (abbreviation: TCNQ), 2,3,5,6-tetrafluoro-7,7,8,8-tetracyanoquinodimethane (abbreviation: F4-TCNQ), and the like can be used. Here, it is preferred that the substance having the electron accepting property with respect to the substance with the hole transporting property is included so that a molar ratio (i.e., the substance having the electron accepting property with respect to the substance with the hole transporting property / the substance with the hole transporting property) with respect to the substance with the hole transporting property ranges from 0.5 to 2. In addition, the first layer 111 may be a layer that includes a p-type semiconductor such as molybdenum oxide, vanadium oxide, ruthenium oxide, cobalt oxide and copper oxide.

[0022]

The second layer 112 is a layer that generates electrons. As such a layer, for example, a layer including a substance with an electron transporting property and a substance having an electron donating property with respect to the substance with the electron transporting property can be given. Here, the substance with the electron transporting property is a substance of which an electron transporting property is higher than a hole transporting property. The substance with the electron transporting property is not particularly limited. For example, a metal complex such as tris(8-quinolinolato)aluminum (abbreviation: Alq<sub>3</sub>), tris(4-methyl-8-quinolinolato)aluminum (abbreviation: Almq<sub>3</sub>), bis(10-hydroxybenzo[h]quinolinato)beryllium (abbreviation: BeBq<sub>2</sub>), bis(2-methyl-8-quinolinolato)-4-phenylphenolate-aluminum (abbreviation: BAq), bis[2-(2-hydroxyphenyl)benzoxazolato]zinc (abbreviation: Zn(BOX)<sub>2</sub>), bis[2-(2-hydroxyphenyl)benzothiazolate]zinc (abbreviation: Zn(BTZ)<sub>2</sub>) can be used.

In addition, the following substances can be used as the substance with the electron transporting property: 2-(4-biphenyl)-5-(4-*tert*-butylphenyl)-1,3,4-oxadiazole (abbreviation: PBD); 1,3-bis[5-(*p*-*tert*-butylphenyl)-1,3,4-oxadiazole-2-yl]benzene (abbreviation: OXD-7); 3-(4-*tert*-butylphenyl)-4-phenyl-5-(4-biphenyl)-1,2,4-triazole (abbreviation: TAZ); 3-(4-*tert*-butylphenyl)-4-(4-ethylphenyl)-5-(4-biphenyl)-1,2,4-triazole (abbreviation: *p*-EtTAZ); bathophenanthroline (abbreviation: BPhen); bathocuproin (abbreviation: BCP); and the like. Further, the substance having the electron donating property with respect to the substance with the electron transporting property is not particularly limited. For example, alkali metal such as lithium and cesium, alkali earth metal such as magnesium and calcium, rare-earth metal such as erbium and ytterbium, and the like can be used. It is preferred that the substance having the electron donating property with respect to the substance with the electron transporting property is included so that a molar ratio (i.e., the substance having the electron donating property with respect to the substance with the electron transporting property / the substance with the electron transporting property) with respect to the substance having the electron transporting property ranges from 0.5 to 2. Additionally, the second layer 112 may include an n-type semiconductor such as zinc oxide, zinc sulfide, zinc selenide, tin oxide and titanium oxide.

[0023]

The third layer 113 is a layer that contains a light emitting layer. The layer structure of the third layer 113 is not particularly limited. The third layer 113 may include either a single layer or multiple layers. For example, as shown in FIG. 1, the third layer 113 may include an electron transporting layer 121, a hole transporting layer 123 and a hole injecting layer 124 along with the light emitting layer 122. Alternatively, the third layer 113 may be a single layer that includes only the light emitting layer.

[0024]

The light emitting layer 122 is a layer that contains a light emitting substance. Here, the light emitting substance indicates a substance that can emit light with a

desired wavelength and has an excellent light emitting efficiency. The third layer 113 is not particularly limited and is preferably formed using a layer in which a light emitting substance is dispersed and which is made from a substance having a larger energy gap than that of the light emitting substance. Accordingly, light emitted from the light emitting substance can be prevented from being quenched due to the concentration of the light emitting substance. Note that the energy gap indicates an energy gap between the LUMO level and the HOMO level.

[0025]

The light emitting substance is not particularly limited. A substance capable of emitting light with a desired wavelength and having an excellent light emitting efficiency may be used. In order to obtain red light emission, for example, the following substances exhibiting emission spectrum with peaks at 600 to 680 nm can be employed:

4-dicyanomethylene-2-isopropyl-6-[2-(1,1,7,7-tetramethyljulolidine-9-yl)ethenyl]-4*H*-pyran (abbreviation: DCJTI);

4-dicyanomethylene-2-methyl-6-[2-(1,1,7,7-tetramethyljulolidine-9-yl)ethenyl]-4*H*-pyran (abbreviation: DCJT);

4-dicyanomethylene-2-*tert*-butyl-6-[2-(1,1,7,7-tetramethyljulolidine-9-yl)ethenyl]-4*H*-pyran (abbreviation: DCJTB); periflanthene;

2,5-dicyano-1,4-bis[2-(10-methoxy-1,1,7,7-tetramethyljulolidine-9-yl)ethenyl]benzene and the like. In order to obtain green light emission, substances exhibiting emission spectrum with peaks at 500 to 550 nm such as *N,N'*-dimethylquinacridone (abbreviation: DMQd), coumarin 6, coumarin 545T, and tris(8-quinolinolate)aluminum (abbreviation: Alq<sub>3</sub>) can be employed. In order to obtain blue light emission, the

following substances exhibiting emission spectrum with peaks at 420 to 500 nm can be employed: 9,10-bis(2-naphthyl)-*tert*-butylanthracene (abbreviation: t-BuDNA);

9,9'-bianthryl; 9,10-diphenylanthracene (abbreviation: DPA);

9,10-bis(2-naphthyl)anthracene (abbreviation: DNA);

bis(2-methyl-8-quinolinolate)-4-phenylphenolate-gallium (abbreviation: BGaq);

bis(2-methyl-8-quinolinolate)-4-phenylphenolate-aluminum (abbreviation: BAlq); and

the like.

[0026]

A substance used for dispersing a light emitting substance is not particularly limited. For example, an anthracene derivative such as 9,10-di(2-naphthyl)-2-*tert*-butylanthracene (abbreviation: t-BuDNA), a carbazole derivative such as 4,4'-bis(*N*-carbazolyl)biphenyl (abbreviation: CBP), a metal complex such as bis[2-(2-hydroxyphenyl)pyridinato]zinc (abbreviation: Znpp<sub>2</sub>) and bis[2-(2-hydroxyphenyl)benzoxazolato]zinc (abbreviation: ZnBOX), and the like can be used.

[0027]

In the above-described light emitting element, the difference in electron affinity between the substance with the electron transporting property, which is included in the second layer 112 and a substance, which is included in one layer contacting to the second layer 112 among the layers included in the third layer 113, is preferably set to be 2 eV or less, more preferably, 1.5 eV or less. When the second layer 112 is made by using an n-type semiconductor, the difference between a work function of the n-type semiconductor and the electron affinity of the substance, which is included in the layer contacting to the second layer 112 among the layers included in the third layer 113, is preferably set to be 2 eV or less, more preferably, 1.5 eV or less.

[0028]

Note that the layer contacting to the second layer 112 among the layers included in the third layer 113 corresponds to the electron transporting layer 121 in the case where the third layer 113 has the structure of the present embodiment mode. When the third layer 113 includes only the light emitting layer, or, when the third layer 113 does not include the electron transporting layer 121 or the like, the light emitting layer corresponds to this layer. In the case where the light emitting layer is in contact with the second layer 112, a substance that is included in the layer contacting to the second layer 112 among the layers included in the third layer 113 corresponds to a substance for dispersing the light emitting substance or the light emitting substance itself. This is because, with respect to a light emitting substance like Alq<sub>3</sub> that can



emit light without being dispersed in the substance for dispersing the light-emitting substance and has an excellent carrier transporting property, a layer made from only the light emitting substance can function as a light emitting layer without dispersing the light emitting substance in the substance for dispersing the light-emitting substance. Therefore, by connecting the third layer 113 and the second layer 112 by using the third layer 113, electrons can easily be injected into the third layer 113 from the second layer 112.

[0029]

Preferably, one or both of the first electrode 101 and the second electrode 102 is/are formed by using a conductive substance capable of transmitting visible light. Accordingly, light generated in the light emitting layer can be emitted to the outside through at least one of the first electrode 101 and the second electrode 102.

[0030]

The first electrode 101 is not particularly limited. For example, aluminum, indium tin oxide (ITO), indium tin oxide containing silicon oxide, indium oxide containing 2 to 20% zinc oxide can be used as the first electrode. Additionally, gold (Au), platinum (Pt), nickel (Ni), tungsten (W), chromium (Cr), molybdenum (Mo), iron (Fe), cobalt (Co), copper (Cu), palladium (Pd) and the like can be used.

[0031]

Also, the second electrode 102 is not particularly limited. When the second electrode 102 has a function of injecting holes to the third layer 113 like the light emitting element of the present embodiment mode, the second electrode 102 is preferably made from a substance having a large work function. Concretely, indium tin oxide (ITO), indium tin oxide containing silicon oxide, indium oxide containing 2 to 20% zinc oxide, gold (Au), platinum (Pt), nickel (Ni), tungsten (W), chromium (Cr), molybdenum (Mo), iron (Fe), cobalt (Co), copper (Cu), palladium (Pd) and the like can be used. Further, for instance, the second electrode 102 can be formed by sputtering, evaporation, or the like.

[0032]

As described above, the electron transporting layer 121 is sandwiched

between the second layer 112 and the light emitting layer 122 in the present embodiment mode. Here, the electron transporting layer 121 is a layer that has a function of transporting electrons injected therein to the light emitting layer 122. By providing the electron transporting layer 121 to isolate the first electrode 101 and the second layer 112 containing metal from the light emitting layer 122, light generated in the light emitting layer can be prevented from being quenched due to the metal.

[0033]

The electron transporting layer 121 is not particularly limited and can be formed by using the above-described Alq<sub>3</sub>, Almq<sub>3</sub>, BeBq<sub>2</sub>, BAlq, Zn(BOX)<sub>2</sub>, Zn(BTZ)<sub>2</sub>, PBD, OXD-7, TAZ, p-EtTAZ, BPhen, BCP, or the like. The electron transporting layer 121 is preferably formed by using the above-mentioned substance with an electron transporting property whose electron mobility is higher than the hole mobility. Also, the electron transporting layer 121 is preferably formed by using a substance having the electron mobility of 10<sup>-6</sup> cm<sup>2</sup>/Vs or more. Further, the electron transporting layer 121 may have a multilayer structure formed by laminating two or more layers made from the above-described substances.

[0034]

In this embodiment mode, a hole transporting layer 123 is provided between the second electrode 102 and the light emitting layer 122 as shown in FIG. 1. Here, the hole transporting layer 123 is a layer that has a function of transporting the holes injected from the second electrode 102 to the light emitting layer 122. By providing the hole transporting layer 123 to isolate the second electrode 102 from the light emitting layer 122, light generated in the light emitting layer can be prevented from being quenched due to the metal.

[0035]

The hole transporting layer 123 is not particularly limited, and the above-described NPB, TPD, TDATA, MTDATA, DNTPD and the like can be used as the hole transporting layer. Preferably, the hole transporting layer 123 is formed by using the above-described substance with a hole transporting property whose hole mobility is higher than the electron mobility. Also, the hole transporting layer 123 is

preferably formed using a substance having the hole mobility of  $10^{-6}$  cm<sup>2</sup>/Vs or more. The hole transporting layer 123 may have a multilayer structure formed by laminating two or more layers made from the above-described substances.

[0036]

Additionally, as shown in FIG. 1, the hole injecting layer 124 may be provided between the second electrode 102 and the hole transporting layer 123. Here, the hole injecting layer 124 is a layer that has a function of supporting the injection of holes into the hole transporting layer 123 from the second electrode 102.

[0037]

The hole injecting layer 124 is not particularly limited and can be formed by using metal oxide such as molybdenum oxide, vanadium oxide, ruthenium oxide, tungsten oxide and manganese oxide. In addition, the hole injecting layer 124 can be formed by using the above-described phthalocyanine compound such as H<sub>2</sub>Pc, CuPC and VOPc, the aromatic amine compound such as DNTPD, or a high molecular weight material such as a poly(ethylenedioxythiophene)/poly(styrene sulfonate) mixture (PEDOT/PSS). Furthermore, the hole injecting layer 124 may be formed using the above-described layer including the substance with the hole transporting property and the substance having the electron accepting property with respect to the substance with the hole transporting property.

[0038]

The above-described light emitting element of the present invention is a highly-reliable light emitting element in which the driving voltage is slightly increased with the accumulation of light emitting time. Note that the voltage applied to obtain the predetermined luminance is referred to as the driving voltage here.

[0039]

The light emitting element of the present invention has slight change in voltage, which is applied to the light emitting element to flow the predetermined current through the light emitting element, depending on the thickness of the layer generating the holes (i.e., the first layer 111). Therefore, for example, by increasing the thickness of the first layer 111 to increase the distance between the first and second

electrodes, a short circuit of the first electrode 101 with the second electrode 102 can be easily prevented.

[0040]

[Embodiment Mode 2]

This embodiment mode will describe a light emitting element in which a light extraction efficiency is increased by controlling the thickness of a layer generating holes and the change in emission spectrum depending on an angle of seeing the light emitting surface is reduced by controlling an optical distance between an reflecting surface and a light emitting region, with reference to FIG. 24.

[0041]

A light emitting element of FIG. 24 comprises a first layer 211 generating holes, a second layer 212 generating electrons, and a third layer 213 containing a light emitting substance between a first electrode 201 and a second electrode 202. The first layer 211, the second layer 212, and the third layer 213 are laminated to one another while sandwiching the second layer 212 between the first and third layers. The first layer 211 is in contact with the first electrode 201 while the third layer 213 is in contact with the second electrode 202.

[0042]

Here, the first electrode 201 is an electrode made from a conductive material having high reflectance, that is, a reflecting electrode. As the conductive material having the high reflectance, aluminum, silver, an alloy of these metals (e.g., an Al:Li alloy, an Mg:Ag alloy etc.) and the like can be used. The reflectance is preferably 50 to 100%. The second electrode 202 is made from a conductive material that can transmit visible light. The conductive material that can transmit visible light is not particularly limited, and indium tin oxide, indium tin oxide containing silicon oxide, indium oxide containing 2 to 20% zinc oxide, or the like can be used.

[0043]

When applying the voltage to the light emitting element such that a potential of the second electrode 202 is higher than that of the first electrode 201, holes are injected into the first electrode 201 from the first layer 211 while electrons are injected

into the third layer 213 from the second layer 212. Also, holes are injected into the third layer 213 from the second electrode 202.

[0044]

The electrons and holes are recombined in the third layer 213 so that a light emitting substance is excited. The light emitting substance emits light upon retuning to the ground state from the excited state. A region in which light is generated in this way is particularly referred to as a light emitting region. A layer including a light emitting substance for forming the light emitting region is referred to as a light emitting layer. Note that the light emitting region is formed at least in a part of the light emitting layer.

[0045]

In the light emitting element according to the present embodiment mode, the third layer 213 includes an electron transporting layer 221, a hole transporting layer 223 and a hole injecting layer 224, along with the light emitting layer 222. Note that the layer structure of the third layer 213 is not limited to that shown in FIG. 24. For instance, the third layer 213 may have a single layer structure including only the light emitting layer.

[0046]

The first layer 211, the second layer 212 and the third layer 213 may be formed by using the same materials of the first layer 111, the second layer 112 and the third layer 113 as described in Embodiment Mode 1, respectively. Similarly, the electron transporting layer 221, the light emitting layer 222, the hole transporting layer 223, and the hole injecting layer 224 may be formed by using the same materials of the electron transporting layer 121, the light emitting layer 122, the hole transporting layer 123, and the hole injecting layer 124 as described in Embodiment Mode 1, respectively.

[0047]

When light enters into the reflecting electrode, a phase inversion is caused in the reflected light. By the effect of interference of light due to the phase inversion, when an optical distance between the light emitting region and the reflecting electrode

(i.e., reflectance×distance) is  $(2m-1)/4$  times ( $m$  is an arbitrary positive integer) of the emission wavelength, that is, when  $m$  equals to  $1/4, 3/4, 5/4 \dots$  times, the light extraction efficiency is increased, whereas when the optical distance therebetween is  $m/2$  times ( $m$  is an arbitrary positive integer), that is,  $m$  equals to  $1/2, 1, 3/2 \dots$  times, the light extraction efficiency is decreased.

[0048]

Therefore, in the light emitting element of the present embodiment mode, when the light emitting region is placed in the vicinity of an interface between the light emitting layer 222 and the hole transporting layer 223, each of the thicknesses of the first layer 211, the second layer 212, the electron transporting layer 221, and the light emitting layer 222 is preferably adjusted so as to satisfy the following expression (4). Accordingly, light can be extracted to the outside efficiently. Also, the increase in resistance value with the increase of film thicknesses of  $d_i$  and  $d_{ii}$  can be suppressed. Here the resistance value indicates a value obtained by dividing the applied voltage (V) by the current (mA) flowing through the light emitting element according to the applied voltage.

[0049]

$$n_i d_i + n_{ii} d_{ii} + n_l d_l + n_p d_p = \frac{(2m-1)\lambda}{4} \dots (4)$$

[0050]

In the expression (4),  $n_i$  represents the refractive index of the first layer 211;  $d_i$ , the thickness of the first layer 211;  $n_{ii}$ , the refractive index of the second layer 212;  $d_{ii}$ , the thickness of the second layer 212;  $n_l$ , the refractive index of the electron transporting layer 221;  $d_l$ , the thickness of the electron transporting layer 221;  $n_p$ , the refractive index of the light emitting layer 222;  $d_p$ , the thickness of the light emitting layer 222;  $\lambda$ , the wavelength of light generated in the light emitting element; and  $m$ , an arbitrary positive integer.

[0051]

Meanwhile, in the light emitting element of the present embodiment mode, when the light emitting region is placed in the vicinity of an interface between the light

emitting layer 222 and the electron transporting layer 221, each of the thicknesses of the first layer 211, the second layer 212, and the electron transporting layer 221 is preferably adjusted so as to satisfy the expression (5). Accordingly, light can be extracted to the outside portion efficiently. In addition, the increase in the resistance value with the increase in film thicknesses of  $d_i$  and  $d_{ii}$  can be suppressed.

[0052]

$$n_i d_i + n_{ii} d_{ii} + n_l d_l = \frac{(2m-1)\lambda}{4} \cdot \cdot \cdot (5)$$

[0053]

In the expression (5),  $n_i$  represents the refractive index of the first layer 211;  $d_i$ , the thickness of the first layer 211;  $n_{ii}$ , the refractive index of the second layer 212;  $d_{ii}$ , the thickness of the second layer 212;  $n_l$ , the refractive index of the electron transporting layer 221;  $d_l$ , the thickness of the electron transporting layer 221;  $\lambda$ , the wavelength of light generated in the light emitting element; and  $m$ , an arbitrary positive integer.

[0054]

Further, in the light emitting element of this embodiment mode, when the light emitting region is formed in the entire area of the light emitting layer 222, each of the thicknesses of the first layer 211, the second layer 212, and the electron transporting layer 221 is preferably adjusted so as to satisfy the following expression (6). Accordingly, light can be extracted to the outside efficiently.

$$\frac{(2m-1)\lambda}{4} - n_{ii} d_{ii} - n_l d_l - n_p d_p \leq n_i d_i \leq \frac{(2m-1)\lambda}{4} - n_{ii} d_{ii} - n_l d_l \cdot \cdot (6)$$

[0055]

In the expression (6),  $n_i$  represents the refractive index of the first layer 211;  $d_i$ , the thickness of the first layer 211;  $n_{ii}$ , the refractive index of the second layer 212;  $d_{ii}$ , the thickness of the second layer 212;  $n_l$ , the refractive index of the electron transporting layer 221;  $d_l$ , the thickness of the electron transporting layer 221;  $n_p$ , the refractive index of the light emitting layer 222;  $d_p$ , the thickness of the light emitting

layer 222;  $\lambda$ , the wavelength of light generated in the light emitting element; and  $m$ , an arbitrary positive integer.

[0056]

In the expressions (4), (5), and (6), it is preferred that  $m$  is  $1 \leq m \leq 10$ . Concretely, the light generated in the light emitting element indicates light which originates from the light emitting substance and is emitted to the outside of the light emitting element. Also, the wavelength of light emission indicates a theoretical value with respect to a wavelength showing a maximal value in emission spectrum.

[0057]

When the first layer 211 is formed using a substance with a hole transporting property and the second layer 212 is formed using a substance with an electron transporting property, in particular, it is preferred to be  $d_i \geq d_{ii}$  in expressions (4), (5), and (6). Accordingly, the increase in the resistance value with the increase in film thickness can be further suppressed. This is because, in particular, a large amount of substance with the hole transporting property exists relative to the substance with the electron transporting property in organic materials, and the substance with the hole transporting property that has higher hole mobility is easily obtained as compared with the substance with the electron transporting property that has the higher electron mobility. Therefore, the light emitting element of the present invention can utilize the substance with the hole transporting property effectively. By utilizing the substance with the hole transporting property effectively, the range of choices for materials that are used for forming the light emitting element is expanded, and hence, the light emitting element can be formed easily.

[0058]

The light emitting element having the structure in which the electron transporting layer 221 is sandwiched between the second layer 212 and the light emitting layer 222 is explained in this embodiment mode. Alternatively, the light emitting element may additionally include a layer which is different from the electron transporting layer 221. In this case,  $n_1d_1$  in the expression 6 can be expressed as follows:  $n_1d_1 + n_2d_2 + \dots + n_kd_k + \dots$



[0059]

[Embodiment Mode 3]

The light emitting element according to the present invention is a highly reliable element having slight increase in the driving voltage with the accumulation of light emitting time. Therefore, by applying the light emitting element according to the invention to, e.g., a pixel portion, a light emitting device having low power consumption can be obtained. Also, the light emitting element of the invention can prevent the short-circuiting between electrodes easily. Therefore, by applying the light emitting element of the invention to a pixel portion, a light emitting device capable of displaying favorable images having less defects due to the short-circuiting can be obtained. Furthermore, the light emitting element according to the invention can facilitate the external extraction efficiency of light. Thus, by applying the light emitting element of the invention to a pixel portion, a light emitting device capable of performing display operation at low power consumption can be obtained.

[0060]

In this embodiment mode, circuit structures and driving methods of a light emitting device having a display function will be described with reference to FIGS. 3 to 6.

[0061]

FIG. 3 is a schematic top view of a light emitting device to which the present invention is applied. In FIG. 3, a pixel portion 6511, a source signal line driver circuit 6512, a writing gate signal line driver circuit 6513, and an erasing gate signal line driver circuit 6514 are provided over a substrate 6500. The source signal line driver circuit 6512, the writing gate signal line driver circuit 6513 and the erasing gate signal line driver circuit 6514 are connected to FPCs (flexible printed circuits) 6503, which are external input terminals, through wiring groups. The source signal line driver circuit 6512, the writing gate signal line driver circuit 6513, and the erasing gate signal line driver circuit 6514 receive video signals, clock signals, start signals, reset signals, and the like from the FPCs 6503. The FPCs 6503 are attached with printed wiring boards (PWBs) 6504. Note that the driver circuits are not necessary to be formed

over the same substrate as the pixel portion 6511. For example, the driver circuits may be provided outside of the substrate by utilizing TCP in which an IC chip is mounted over an FPC provided with a wiring pattern, or the like.

[0062]

A plurality of source signal lines extending in columns are aligned in rows in the pixel portion 6511. Also, power supply lines are aligned in rows. A plurality of gate signal lines extending in rows are aligned in columns in the pixel portion 6511. In addition, a plurality of circuits each including a light emitting element are aligned in the pixel portion 6511.

[0063]

FIG. 4 is a diagram showing a circuit for operating one pixel. The circuit as shown in FIG. 4 comprises a first transistor 901, a second transistor 902, and a light emitting element 903.

[0064]

Each of the first transistor 901 and the second transistor 902 is a three terminal element including a gate electrode, a drain region, and a source region. A channel region is interposed between the drain region and the source region. Note that the region serving as the source region and the region serving as the drain region are changed depending on a structure of a transistor, an operational condition, and the like, and therefore, it is difficult to determine which regions serve as the source region and the drain region. Accordingly, the regions serving as the source and the drain are denoted as a first electrode and a second electrode of each transistor in this embodiment mode, respectively.

[0065]

A gate signal line 911 and a writing gate signal line driver circuit 913 are provided to be electrically connected or disconnected to each other by a switch 918. The gate signal line 911 and an erasing gate signal line driver circuit 914 are provided to be electrically connected or disconnected to each other by a switch 919. A source signal line 912 is provided to be electrically connected to either a source signal line driver circuit 915 or a power source 916 by a switch 920. A gate of the first transistor

901 is electrically connected to the gate signal line 911. The first electrode of the first transistor 901 is electrically connected to the source signal line 912 while the second electrode thereof is electrically connected to a gate electrode of the second transistor 902. The first electrode of the second transistor 902 is electrically connected to a current supply line 917 while the second electrode thereof is electrically connected to one electrode included in a light emitting element 903. Further, the switch 918 may be included in the writing gate signal line driver circuit 913. The switch 919 may also be included in the erasing gate signal line driver circuit 914. In addition, the switch 920 may be included in the source signal line driver circuit 915.

[0066]

The arrangement of transistors, light emitting elements, and the like in the pixel portion is not particularly limited. For example, the arrangement as shown in a top view of FIG. 5 can be employed. In FIG. 5, a first electrode of a first transistor 1001 is connected to a source signal line 1004 while a second electrode of the first transistor is connected to a gate electrode of a second transistor 1002. A first electrode of the second transistor is connected to a current supply line 1005 and a second electrode of the second transistor is connected to an electrode 1006 of a light emitting element. A part of the gate signal line 1003 functions as a gate electrode of the first transistor 1001.

[0067]

Next, the method for driving the light emitting device will be described. FIG. 6 is a diagram explaining an operation of a frame with time. In FIG. 6, a horizontal direction indicates time passage while a longitudinal direction indicates the number of scanning stages of a gate signal line.

[0068]

When an image is displayed using the light emitting device of the present invention, a rewriting operation and a displaying operation are carried out during a display period, repeatedly. The number of rewriting operations is not particularly limited. However, the rewriting operation is preferably performed about 60 times a second such that a person who watches a displayed image does not detect flicker in the

image. Here, a period of operating the rewriting operation and the displaying operation of one image (one frame) is, herein, referred to as one frame period.

[0069]

As shown in FIG. 6, one frame is divided into four sub-frames 501, 502, 503 and 504 including writing periods 501a, 502a, 503a, and 504a and holding periods 501b, 502b, 503b, and 504b. The light emitting element applied with a signal for emitting light is in the state of light emitting during the holding periods. The length ratio of the holding periods in each of the first sub-frame 501, the second sub-frame 502, the third sub-frame 503, and the fourth sub-frame 504 satisfies  $2^3 : 2^2 : 2^1 : 2^0 = 8 : 4 : 2 : 1$ . This allows the light emitting device to exhibit 4-bit gray scale. Note that the number of bits and the number of gray scales are not limited to those as shown here. For instance, eight sub-frames may be provided so as to achieve 8-bit gray scale.

[0070]

The operation in one frame will be described. In the sub-frame 501, the writing operation is first performed in 1<sup>st</sup> row to a last row, sequentially. Therefore, the starting time of the writing periods is varied for each row. The holding period 501b sequentially starts in the rows in which the writing period 501a has been terminated. In the holding period, a light emitting element applied with a signal for emitting light remains in a light emitting state. Upon terminating the holding period 501b, the sub-frame 501 is changed to the next sub-frame 502 sequentially in the rows, and a writing operation is sequentially performed in the 1<sup>st</sup> row to the last row in the same manner as the sub-frame 501. The above-mentioned operations are carried out repeatedly up to the holding period 504b of the sub-frame 504 and then terminated. After terminating the operation in the sub-frame 504, an operation in the next frame starts. Accordingly, the sum of the light-emitting time in respective sub-frames corresponds to the light emitting time of each light emitting element in one frame. By changing the light emitting time for each light emitting element and combining such the light emitting elements variously within one pixel, various display colors with different brightness and different chromaticity can be formed.

[0071]

When the holding period is intended to be forcibly terminated in the row in which the writing period has already been terminated and the holding period has started prior to terminating the writing operation up to the last row as shown in the sub-frame 504, an erasing period 504c is preferably provided after the holding period 504b so as to stop light emission forcibly. The row where light emission is forcibly stopped does not emit light for a certain period (this period is referred to as a non light emitting period 504d). Upon terminating the writing period in the last row, a writing period of a next sub-frame (or, a next frame) starts sequentially from a first row. This can prevent the writing period in the sub-frame 504 from overlapping with the writing period in the next sub-frame.

[0072]

Although the sub-frames 501 to 504 are arranged in order of increasing the length of the holding period in this embodiment mode, they are not necessary to be arranged in this order. For example, the sub-frames may be arranged in ascending order of the length of the holding period. Alternatively, the sub-frames may be arranged in random order. In addition, these sub-frames may further be divided into a plurality of frames. That is, scanning of gate signal lines may be performed at several times during a period of supplying same video signals.

[0073]

Here, the operations of the circuits in the writing period and the erasing period as shown in FIG. 4 will be described.

[0074]

The operation in the writing period will be described first. In the writing period, the gate signal line 911 in the  $n^{\text{th}}$  row ( $n$  is a natural number) is electrically connected to the writing gate signal line driver circuit 913 via the switch 918, but is not connected to the erasing gate signal line driver circuit 914. The source signal line 912 is electrically connected to the source signal line driver circuit via the switch 920. In this case, a signal is input in a gate of the first transistor 901 connected to the gate signal line 911 in the  $n^{\text{th}}$  row ( $n$  is a natural number), thereby turning the first transistor

901 on. At this moment, video signals are simultaneously input in the source signal lines in the first to last columns. Note that the video signals input from the source signal line 912 in each column are independent from one another. The video signals input from the source signal line 912 are input in a gate electrode of the second transistor 902 via the first transistor 901 connected to the respective source signal lines. At this time, an amount of current which is supplied from the current supply line 917 to the light emitting element 903 is determined by the signal input in the second transistor 902. It is decided whether the light emitting element 903 emits light or emits no light depending on the amount of current. For instance, when the second transistor 902 is a P-channel type, the light emitting element 903 emits light by inputting a low level signal in the gate electrode of the second transistor 902. On the other hand, when the second transistor 902 is an N-channel type, the light emitting element 903 emits light by inputting a high level signal in the gate electrode of the second transistor 902.

[0075]

Next, the operation in the erasing period will be described. In the erasing period, the gate signal line 911 in the  $n^{\text{th}}$  row ( $n$  is a natural number) is electrically connected to the erasing gate signal line driver circuit 914 via the switch 919, but is not connected to the writing gate signal line driver circuit 913. The source signal line 912 is electrically connected to the power source 916 via the switch 920. In this case, upon inputting a signal in the gate of the first transistor 901 connecting to the gate signal line 911 in the  $n^{\text{th}}$  row, the first transistor 901 is turned on. At this moment, erasing signals are simultaneously input in the source signal lines in the first to last columns. The erasing signals input from the source signal line 912 are input in the gate electrode of the second transistor 902 via the first transistor 901 connecting to the respective source signal lines. A supply of current flowing to the light emitting element 903 from the current supply line 917 is forcibly stopped by the signals input in the second transistor 902. This makes the light emitting element 903 emit no light forcibly. For example, when the second transistor 902 is a P-channel type, the light emitting element 903 emits no light by inputting a high level signal in the gate

electrode of the second transistor 902. On the other hand, when the second transistor 902 is an N-channel type, the light emitting element 903 emits no light by inputting a low level signal in the gate electrode of the second transistor 902.

[0076]

Note that in the erasing period, a signal for erasing is input in the  $n^{\text{th}}$  row ( $n$  is a natural number) by the above-mentioned operation. However, as mentioned above, the  $n^{\text{th}}$  row sometimes remains in the erasing period while another row (e.g., an  $m^{\text{th}}$  row ( $m$  is a natural number)) remains in the writing period. In this case, since a signal for erasing is necessary to be input in the  $n^{\text{th}}$  row and a signal for writing is necessary to be input in the  $m^{\text{th}}$  row by utilizing the source signal lines in the same columns, the after-mentioned operation is preferably carried out.

[0077]

After the light emitting element 903 in the  $n^{\text{th}}$  row becomes a non-light emitting state by the above-described operation in the erasing period, the gate signal line and the erasing gate signal line driver circuit 914 are immediately disconnected to each other and the source signal line is connected to the source signal line driver circuit 915 by turning the switch 918 on/off. The gate signal line and the writing gate signal line driver circuit 913 are connected to each other while the source signal line and the source signal line driver circuit 915 are connected to each other. A signal is selectively input in the signal line in the  $m^{\text{th}}$  row from the writing gate signal line driver circuit 913, and the first transistor is turned on while signals for writing are input in the source signal lines in the first to last columns from the source signal line driver circuit 915. By these signals, the light emitting element in the  $m^{\text{th}}$  row emits light or no light.

[0078]

After terminating the writing period in the  $m^{\text{th}}$  row as mentioned above, the erasing period immediately starts in the  $n+1^{\text{th}}$  row. Therefore, the gate signal line and the writing gate signal line driver circuit 913 are disconnected to each other, and the source signal line is connected to the power source 916 by turning the switch 918 on/off. Also, the gate signal line and the writing gate signal line driver circuit 913 are

disconnected to each other, and the gate signal line is connected to the erasing gate signal line driver circuit 914. A signal is selectively input in the gate signal line in the  $n+1^{\text{th}}$  row from the erasing gate signal line driver circuit 914, and the first transistor is turn on while an erasing signal is input therein from the power source 916. Upon terminating the erasing period in the  $n+1^{\text{th}}$  row in this manner, the writing period immediately starts in the  $m$  row. In a similar way, the erasing period and the writing period may be repeated alternatively until the erasing period of the last row.

[0079]

Although the writing period of the  $m^{\text{th}}$  row is provided between the erasing period of the  $n^{\text{th}}$  row and the erasing period of the  $n+1^{\text{th}}$  row in this embodiment mode, the present invention is not limited thereto. The writing period of the  $m^{\text{th}}$  row may be provided between the erasing period in the  $n-1^{\text{th}}$  row and the erasing period in the  $n^{\text{th}}$  row.

[0080]

Furthermore, in this embodiment mode, when the non-light emitting period 504d is provided like the sub-frame 504, the operation of disconnecting the erasing gate signal line driver circuit 914 from one gate signal line while connecting the writing gate signal line driver circuit 913 to another gate signal line is carried out repeatedly. This operation may be performed in a frame in which a non-light emitting period is not particularly provided.

[0081]

[Embodiment Mode 4]

An embodiment of a cross sectional view of a light emitting device including a light emitting element according to the present invention will be described with reference to FIG. 7.

[0082]

In FIG. 7, a region surrounded by a dashed line represents a transistor 11 that is provided for driving a light emitting element 12 of the present invention. The light emitting element 12 is a light emitting element of the present invention comprising a layer 15, in which a layer generating holes, a layer generating electrons, and a layer



including a light emitting substance are laminated, between a first electrode 13 and a second electrode 14. A drain of the transistor 11 and the first electrode 13 are electrically connected to each other by a wiring 17 that passes through a first interlayer insulating film 16 (16a, 16b, and 16c). The light emitting element 12 is isolated from another light emitting elements provided adjacent to the light emitting element 12 by a partition wall layer 18. The light emitting device of the present invention having such a structure is provided over a substrate 10 in this embodiment mode.

[0083]

Note that the transistor 11 as shown in FIG. 7 is a top-gate type transistor in which a gate electrode is provided on a side of a semiconductor layer opposite to the substrate. However, the structure of the transistor 11 is not particularly limited. For example, a bottom-gate type transistor may be employed. In the case of the bottom-gate type transistor, either a transistor in which a protection film is formed on a semiconductor layer forming a channel (a channel protection type) or a transistor in which a part of a semiconductor layer forming a channel is depressed (a channel etched type) may be used. Note that 21 denotes a gate electrode, 22 denotes a gate insulating film, 23 denotes a semiconductor layer, 24 denotes an n-type semiconductor layer, 25 denotes an electrode, and 26 denotes a protection film.

[0084]

The semiconductor layer included in the transistor 11 may be any of a crystalline semiconductor and an amorphous semiconductor, and also may be a semiamorphous semiconductor and the like.

[0085]

Concretely, the semiamorphous semiconductor is as follows. It has an intermediate structure between an amorphous structure and a crystalline structure (including a single crystalline structure and a polycrystalline structure), and is a semiconductor having a third state that is stable in term of free energy. The semiamorphous semiconductor further includes a crystalline region having a short range order along with lattice distortion. A crystal grain with a size of 0.5 to 20 nm is included in at least a part of an semiamorphous semiconductor film. Raman spectrum

thereof is shifted toward a low wavenumber side blow  $520\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . The diffraction peaks of (111) and (220), which are believed to be derived from Si crystal lattice, are observed in the X-ray diffraction. The semiamorphous semiconductor contains hydrogen or halogen of at least 1 atom% or more for terminating dangling bonds. The semiamorphous semiconductor is also referred to as a microcrystalline semiconductor (microcrystalline semiconductor), and is formed by glow discharge decomposition (plasma CVD) of a silicide gas. As for the silicide gas,  $\text{SiH}_4$ ,  $\text{Si}_2\text{H}_6$ ,  $\text{SiH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ,  $\text{SiHCl}_3$ ,  $\text{SiCl}_4$ ,  $\text{SiF}_4$ , and the like can be used. The silicide gas may also be diluted with  $\text{H}_2$ , or a mixture of  $\text{H}_2$  and one or more of rare gas elements selected from He, Ar, Kr and Ne. The dilution ratio is in the range of 1 : 2 to 1 : 1,000. The pressure is approximately in the range of 0.1 to 133 Pa, the power frequency is 1 to 120 MHz, preferably, 13 to 60 MHz. The substrate heating temperature may be set to be  $300^\circ\text{C}$  or less, more preferably, 100 to  $250^\circ\text{C}$ . With respect to impurity elements contained in the film, each concentration of impurities for atmospheric constituents such as oxygen, nitrogen, and carbon is preferably set to be  $1 \times 10^{20}/\text{cm}^3$  or less. In particular, the oxygen concentration is set to be  $5 \times 10^{19}/\text{cm}^3$  or less, preferably,  $1 \times 10^{19}/\text{cm}^3$  or less. Note that carrier mobility of a TFT (thin film transistor) utilizing the semiamorphous semiconductor is approximately 1 to  $10^2\text{ m}^2/\text{Vsec}$ .

[0086]

As a specific example of a crystalline semiconductor layer, a semiconductor layer made from single crystalline silicon, polycrystalline silicon, silicon germanium, or the like can be cited. These materials may be formed by laser crystallization. For example, these materials may be formed by crystallization with use of the solid phase growth method using nickel and the like.

[0087]

When a semiconductor layer is made from an amorphous substance, e.g., amorphous silicon, it is preferable to use a light emitting device with circuits including only N-channel transistors as the transistor 11 and other transistor (a transistor included in a circuit for driving a light emitting element). Alternatively, a light emitting device with circuits including either N-channel transistors or P-channel

transistors may be employed. Also, a light emitting device with circuits including both an N-channel transistor and a P-channel transistor may be used.

[0088]

Moreover, the first interlayer insulating film 16 may include plural layers as shown in FIGS. 7(A) and 7(C), or a single layer. Note that 16a is made from an inorganic material such as silicon oxide and silicon nitride, and 16b is made from acrylic, siloxane (whose skeleton structure is constructed by silicon (Si)-oxygen (O) bonds and which includes an organic group such as an alkyl group as its substituent), or a substance with a self-planarizing property that can be formed by applying a liquid such as silicon oxide. Additionally, 16c is made from a silicon nitride film containing argon (Ar). The substances constituting each of the layers are not particularly limited thereto, and substances other than the above-mentioned substances may be employed. Alternatively, the above-mentioned substances may be used in combination with a layer made of substance other than the above-mentioned substances. Accordingly, the first interlayer insulating film 16 may be formed by using both an inorganic material and an organic material or by using either an inorganic material or an organic material.

[0089]

The edge portion of the partition wall layer 18 preferably has a shape in which the radius of curvature is continuously varied. This partition wall layer 18 is formed by using acrylic, siloxane, resist, silicon oxide, and the like. Note that the partition wall layer 18 may be made from any one of or both an inorganic film and an organic film.

[0090]

FIGS. 7(A) and 7(C) show the structures in which only the first interlayer insulating films 16 are sandwiched between the transistors 11 and the light emitting elements 12. Alternatively, as shown in FIG. 7(B), the first interlayer insulating film 16 (16a and 16b) and a second interlayer insulating film 19 (19a and 19b) may be provided. In the light emitting device shown in FIG. 7(B), the first electrode 13 passes through the second interlayer insulating film 19 to be connected to the wiring 17.

[0091]

The second interlayer insulating film 19 may include either plural layers or a single layer as well as the first interlayer insulating film 16. 19a is made from acrylic, siloxane (whose skeleton structure is constructed by silicon (Si)-oxygen (O) bonds and which includes an organic group such as an alkyl group as its substituent), or a substance with a self-planarizing property that can be formed by applying a liquid such as silicon oxide. Additionally, 19b is made from a silicon nitride film containing argon (Ar). The substances constituting each of the interlayer insulating layers are not particularly limited thereto. Therefore, substances other than the above-mentioned substances may be employed. Alternatively, the above-mentioned substances may be used in combination with a layer made of a substance other than the above-mentioned substances. Accordingly, the second interlayer insulating film 19 may be formed by using both an inorganic material and an organic material or by using either an inorganic material or an organic material.

[0092]

When the first electrode and the second electrode are both formed by using a substance with a light transmitting property in the light emitting element 12, generated light can be extracted through both the first electrode 13 and the second electrode 14 as shown in arrows in FIG. 7(A). When only the second electrode 14 is made from a substance with a light transmitting property, generated light can be extracted only through the second electrode 14 as shown in an arrow of FIG. 7(B). In this case, the first electrode 13 is preferably made from a material with high reflectance or a film

(reflection film) made from a material with high reflectance is preferably provided under the first electrode 13. When only the first electrode 13 is made from a substance with a light transmitting property, generated light can be extracted only through the first electrode 13 as shown in an arrow of FIG. 7(C). In this case, the second electrode 14 is preferably made from a material with high reflectance or a reflection film is preferably provided over the second electrode 14.

[0093]

Moreover, the light emitting element 12 may be formed by laminating the layer 15 to enable the operation by applying the voltage to the light emitting element such that a potential of the second electrode 14 is higher than that of the first electrode 13. Alternatively, the light emitting element 12 may be formed by laminating the layer 15 to enable the operation by applying the voltage to the light emitting element such that a potential of the second electrode 14 is lower than that of the first electrode 13. In the former case, the transistor 11 is an N-channel transistor. In the latter case, the transistor 11 is a P-channel transistor.

[0094]

As set forth above, an active-type light emitting device that controls the driving of the light emitting element using the transistor is described in this embodiment mode. In addition, a passive-type light emitting device that drives a light emitting element without providing a driving element such as a transistor may be employed. In this passive light emitting device, it can be driven at low power consumption by using the light emitting element of the present invention that can be operated at a low driving voltage.

[0095]

[Embodiment Mode 5]

By mounting a light emitting device according to the present invention, an electronic appliance with a slight increase of power consumption in a display portion or the like can be obtained. Also, by mounting a light emitting device of the invention, an electronic appliance such as a display device capable of displaying favorable images with few defects in pixels and the like can be obtained.

Furthermore, by mounting the light emitting device of the invention, an electronic appliance having low power consumption can be obtained.

[0096]

An example of electronic appliances mounted with the light emitting devices according to the present invention are illustrated in FIG. (8).

[0097]

FIG. 8(A) is a laptop personal computer manufactured according to the present invention, including a main body 5521, a housing 5522, a display portion 5523, a keyboard 5524, and the like. The laptop personal computer can be achieved by incorporating the light emitting device including the light emitting element of the present invention thereto as the display portion.

[0098]

FIG. 8(B) is a phone manufactured according to the present invention, including a main body 5552, a display portion 5551, an audio output portion 5554, an audio input portion 5555, operation switches 5556 and 5557, an antenna 5553, and the like. The phone can be achieved by incorporating the light emitting device including the light emitting element of the present invention thereto as the display portion.

[0099]

FIG. 8C is a television set manufactured according to the present invention, including a display portion 5531, a housing 5532, speakers 5533, and the like. The television set can be achieved by incorporating the light emitting device including the light emitting element of the invention thereto as the display portion.

[0100]

As set forth above, the light emitting devices of the present invention are suitable to be used as the display portions of various kinds of electronic appliances.

[0101]

Note that although the personal computer is described in the present embodiment, the light emitting devices having the light emitting elements of the invention may be mounted on a phone, a navigation device, a lighting appliance, and the like.

[Embodiment 1]

[0102]

Methods for manufacturing four light emitting elements (i.e., a light emitting element (1), a light emitting element (2), a light emitting element (3), and a light emitting element (4) each having a different mixture ratio of a substance with a hole transporting property to a substance having an electron accepting property with respect to the substance with the hole transporting property in a layer having a function of generating holes, and characteristics of these elements will be described in this embodiment with reference to FIG. 2.

[0103]

Indium tin oxide containing silicon was formed over a substrate 701 by sputtering to form a second electrode 702 so as to have a thickness of 110 nm. Note that a substrate made of glass was used as the substrate 701.

[0104]

Next, an 11<sup>th</sup> layer 703 including molybdenum oxide was formed on the second electrode 702 by vacuum evaporation of molybdenum oxide so as to have a thickness of 5 nm.

[0105]

Next, a 12<sup>th</sup> layer 704 including 4,4'-bis[*N*-(1-naphthyl)-*N*-phenylamino]biphenyl (abbreviation: NPB) was formed on the 11<sup>th</sup> layer 703 by vacuum evaporation of the NPB so as to have a thickness of 55 nm.

[0106]

Next, a 13<sup>th</sup> layer 705 including tris(8-quinolinolato)aluminum (abbreviation: Alq<sub>3</sub>) and coumarin 6 was formed on the 12<sup>th</sup> layer 704 by co-evaporation of Alq<sub>3</sub> and coumarin 6. The weight ratio of Alq<sub>3</sub> to coumarin 6 was adjusted to be 1 : 0.005. Accordingly, the coumarin 6 is dispersed in Alq<sub>3</sub>. The thickness was set to be 35 nm. Note that the co-evaporation is an evaporation method that is performed simultaneously from plural evaporation sources.

[0107]

Next, a 14<sup>th</sup> layer 706 including Alq<sub>3</sub> was formed on the 13<sup>th</sup> layer 705 by vacuum evaporation of Alq<sub>3</sub>. Here, the thickness was set to be 10 nm.

[0108]

Next, a second layer 707 including Alq<sub>3</sub> and lithium (Li) was formed on the 14<sup>th</sup> layer 706 by co-evaporation of Alq<sub>3</sub> and lithium. Here, the weight ratio of Alq<sub>3</sub> to lithium was adjusted to be 1 : 0.01. Accordingly, the lithium is dispersed in Alq<sub>3</sub>. The thickness was set to be 10 nm.

[0109]

Subsequently, a first layer 708 including NPB and molybdenum oxide was formed on the second layer 707 by co-evaporation of NPB and molybdenum oxide. Here, with respect to the light emitting element (1), the molar ratio between the NPB and the molybdenum oxide (= NPB / molybdenum oxide) was adjusted to be 0.5. With respect to the light emitting element (2), the molar ratio between the NPB and the molybdenum oxide (= NPB / molybdenum oxide) was adjusted to be 1.0. With respect to the light emitting element (3), the molar ratio between the NPB and the molybdenum oxide (= NPB / molybdenum oxide) was adjusted to be 1.5. With respect to the light emitting element (4), the molar ratio between the NPB and the molybdenum oxide (= NPB / molybdenum oxide) was adjusted to be 2.0. Each of the thicknesses was set to be 20 nm.

[0110]

Next, a first electrode 709 was formed on the first layer 708 by vacuum evaporation of aluminum. The thickness was set to be 100 nm.

[0111]

When current flows through each light emitting element manufactured above by applying the voltage thereto such that a potential of the second electrode 702 is higher than that of the first electrode 709, holes generated in the first layer 708 are injected in the first electrode 709 while electrons generated in the second layer 707 are injected in the 14<sup>th</sup> layer 706. The holes are injected in the 11<sup>th</sup> layer 703 from the second electrode 702. The holes injected from the second electrode 702 and the



electrons injected from the second layer 707 are recombined in the 13<sup>th</sup> layer 705, allowing coumarin 6 to emit light. Accordingly, the 13<sup>th</sup> layer 705 serves as a light emitting layer. Note that the 11<sup>th</sup> layer 703 serves as a hole injecting layer. The 12<sup>th</sup> layer 704 serves as a hole transporting layer. The 14<sup>th</sup> layer 706 serves as an electron transporting layer. In each light emitting element of the present embodiment, the substances included in the 14<sup>th</sup> layer 706 and a substance with an electron transporting property included in the second layer 707 are both Alq<sub>3</sub> and have equivalent electron affinity.

[0112]

FIG. 9 shows the voltage-luminance characteristics of the light emitting elements according to the present embodiment, FIG. 10 shows the current density-luminance characteristics thereof, and FIG. 11 shows the voltage-current characteristics thereof. In FIG. 9, a horizontal axis represents the voltage (V) while a perpendicular axis represents the luminance (cd/m<sup>2</sup>). In FIG. 10, a horizontal axis represents the current density (mA/cm<sup>2</sup>) while a perpendicular axis represents luminance (cd/m<sup>2</sup>). In FIG. 11, a horizontal axis represents the voltage (V) while a perpendicular axis represents the current (mA). In FIGS. 9 to 11, marks ▲ indicate the characteristics of the light emitting element (1), marks ● indicate the characteristics of the light emitting element (2), marks ○ indicate the characteristics of the light emitting element (3), and marks ■ indicate the characteristics of the light emitting element (4).

[0113]

According to FIGS. 9 to 11, it can be understood that each of the light emitting elements is operated favorably. In particular, it is found that, as to the emitting elements (2) to (4) in which the molar ratios between NPB and molybdenum oxide (i.e., NPB / molybdenum oxide) of the respective first layers 708 is 1 to 2, the luminance is high and also the amount of current is large when applying the predetermined voltage to the light emitting elements. Accordingly, by adjusting the molar ratio between the NPB and the molybdenum oxide (i.e., NPB / molybdenum oxide) to be 1 to 2, a light emitting element capable of operating at low driving voltage

can be obtained.

[0114]

Next, results of carrying out a continuous lighting test using the light emitting elements of the present embodiment will be described. The continuous lighting test was performed as shown below at normal temperature after sealing the above-manufactured light emitting elements under nitrogen atmosphere.

[0115]

As revealed by FIG. 10, the light emitting element of the present invention under an initial condition requires the current density of  $26.75 \text{ mA/cm}^2$  to emit light at the luminance of  $3,000 \text{ cd/m}^2$ . In this embodiment, the time-dependences of voltage and luminance which were required for flowing the current of  $26.75 \text{ mA/cm}^2$  were examined while flowing the current of  $26.75 \text{ mA/cm}^2$  for a certain period. The measurement results are shown in FIG. 12 and FIG. 13. In FIG. 12, a horizontal axis represents time passage (hour) while a perpendicular axis represents the voltage (V) required for flowing the current of  $26.75 \text{ mA/cm}^2$ . Also, in FIG. 13, a horizontal axis represents time passage (hour) while a perpendicular axis represents the luminance (an arbitrary unit). Note that the luminance (arbitrary unit) is a relative value with respect to the initial luminance (i.e., the luminance at a given time is divided by the initial luminance and then multiplied by 100), wherein the luminance in an initial state is expressed as 100.

[0116]

According to FIG. 12, it is found that, in each of the light emitting element, the voltage required for flowing the current with the current density of  $26.75 \text{ mA/cm}^2$  is increased to only about 1 V from the initial condition after 100 hours. Consequently, it can be confirmed that the light emitting elements of the present invention are favorable elements having slight rise in voltage with time passage.

[Embodiment 2]

[0117]

A method for manufacturing a light emitting element of the present invention will be described with reference to FIG. 14.

[0118]

Indium tin oxide containing silicon was formed over a substrate 731 by sputtering to form a second electrode 732. The thickness was set to be 110 nm. Note that a substrate made of glass was used as the substrate 731.

[0119]

Next, an 11<sup>th</sup> layer 733 including molybdenum oxide and NPB was formed on the second electrode 732 by co-evaporation of molybdenum oxide and NPB. Here, the thickness was set to be 50 nm.

[0120]

Subsequently, a 12<sup>th</sup> layer 734 including NPB was formed on the 11<sup>th</sup> layer 733 by vacuum evaporation of NPB. Here, the thickness was set to be 10 nm.

[0121]

A 13<sup>th</sup> layer 735 including tris(8-quinolinolato)aluminum (abbreviation: Alq<sub>3</sub>) and coumarin 6 was formed on the 12<sup>th</sup> layer 734 by co-evaporation of Alq<sub>3</sub> and coumarin 6. The weight ratio of Alq<sub>3</sub> to coumarin 6 was adjusted to be 1 : 0.005 so that the coumarin 6 was dispersed in Alq<sub>3</sub>. The thickness was set to be 35 nm. Note that the co-evaporation is an evaporation method that is performed simultaneously from plural evaporation sources.

[0122]

A 14<sup>th</sup> layer 736 including Alq<sub>3</sub> was formed on the 13<sup>th</sup> layer 735 by vacuum evaporation of Alq<sub>3</sub>. Here, the thickness was set to be 10 nm.

[0123]

A second layer 737 including Alq<sub>3</sub> and lithium (Li) was formed on the 14<sup>th</sup> layer 736 by co-evaporation of Alq<sub>3</sub> and lithium. Here, the weight ratio of Alq<sub>3</sub> to lithium was adjusted to be 1 : 0.01 so that the lithium was dispersed in the Alq<sub>3</sub>. The thickness was set to be 10 nm.

[0124]

Next, a first layer 738 including NPB and molybdenum oxide was formed on the second layer 737 by co-evaporation of NPB and molybdenum oxide. The molar ratio between the NPB and the molybdenum oxide (i.e., NPB / molybdenum oxide)

was adjusted to be 1.0. The thickness was set to be 20 nm.

[0125]

A first electrode 739 was formed on the first layer 738 by vacuum evaporation of aluminum. The thickness was set to be 100 nm.

[0126]

When current flows through each light emitting element manufactured above by applying the voltage thereto such that a potential of the second electrode 732 is higher than that of the first electrode 739, holes generated in the first layer 738 are injected in the first electrode 739 while electrons generated in the second layer 737 are injected in the 14<sup>th</sup> layer 736. The holes are injected in the 11<sup>th</sup> layer 733 from the second electrode 732. The holes injected from the second electrode 732 and the electrons injected from the second layer 737 are recombined in the 13<sup>th</sup> layer 735, allowing coumarin 6 to emit light. Accordingly, the 13<sup>th</sup> layer 735 serves as a light emitting layer. Note that the 11<sup>th</sup> layer 733 serves as a hole injecting layer. The 12<sup>th</sup> layer 734 serves as a hole transporting layer. The 14<sup>th</sup> layer 736 serves as an electron transporting layer. In each light emitting element of the present embodiment, the substances included in the 14<sup>th</sup> layer 736 and a substance with an electron transporting property included in the second layer 737 are both Alq<sub>3</sub> and have equivalent electron affinity.

[0127]

(Comparative Example)

Next, a method for manufacturing a light emitting element of the comparative example will be described with reference to FIG. 15.

[0128]

Indium tin oxide containing silicon was formed over a substrate 751 by sputtering to form a second electrode 752. The thickness was set to be 110 nm. Note that a substrate made of glass was used as the substrate 751.

[0129]

Next, an 11<sup>th</sup> layer 753 including molybdenum oxide and NPB was formed on the second electrode 752 by co-evaporation of molybdenum oxide and NPB. Here,

the thickness was set to be 50 nm.

[0130]

Next, a 12<sup>th</sup> layer 754 including NPB was formed on the 11<sup>th</sup> layer 753 by vacuum evaporation of NPB. Here, the thickness was set to be 10 nm.

[0131]

Next, a 13<sup>th</sup> layer 755 including Alq<sub>3</sub> and coumarin 6 was formed on the 12<sup>th</sup> layer 754 by co-evaporation of Alq<sub>3</sub> and coumarin 6. Here, the weight ratio of Alq<sub>3</sub> to coumarin 6 was adjusted to be 1 : 0.005 so that the coumarin 6 was dispersed in Alq<sub>3</sub>. The thickness was set to be 35 nm.

[0132]

Next, a 14<sup>th</sup> layer 756 including Alq<sub>3</sub> was formed on the 13<sup>th</sup> layer 755 by vacuum evaporation of the Alq<sub>3</sub>. Here, the thickness was set to be 10 nm.

[0133]

Next, a second layer 757 including Alq<sub>3</sub> and lithium (Li) was formed on the 14<sup>th</sup> layer 756 by co-evaporation of Alq<sub>3</sub> and lithium. The weight ratio of Alq<sub>3</sub> to lithium was adjusted to be 1 : 0.01 so that lithium was dispersed in Alq<sub>3</sub>. The thickness was set to be 10 nm.

[0134]

Next, a first electrode 758 was formed on the second layer 757 by vacuum evaporation of aluminum. The thickness was set to be 100 nm.

[0135]

The light emitting element of the comparative example was manufactured in the above-described manner to be compared with the light emitting element of Embodiment 2 according to the present invention. As seen from the above, the light emitting element of the comparative example does not include a layer corresponding to the first layer 738 of Embodiment 2.

[0136]

The voltage-luminance characteristics of the light emitting element of Embodiment 2 and the light emitting element of the comparative example are shown in FIG. 16 while the voltage-current characteristics thereof are shown in FIG. 17. In FIG.

16, a horizontal axis represents the voltage (V) and a perpendicular axis represents the luminance ( $\text{cd/m}^2$ ). In FIG. 17, a horizontal axis represents the voltage (V) and a perpendicular axis represents the current (mA). In FIG. 16 and FIG. 17, marks ● indicate the characteristics of the light emitting element of Embodiment 2 (present invention) whereas marks ▲ indicate the characteristics of the light emitting element of the comparative example.

[0137]

According to FIG. 16, it is found that the luminance of the light emitting element of the present invention, which is obtained in applying a predetermined voltage thereto, is higher than that of the light emitting element of the comparative example. In addition, it is found that the current flowing through the light emitting element of the present invention upon applying a predetermined voltage thereto is higher than that of the light emitting element of the comparative example. Consequently, the light emitting element of the present invention is a favorable element capable of operating at low driving voltage.

[0138]

Each of the light emitting elements in Embodiment 1 and Embodiment 2 comprises layers functioning as a hole injecting layer, a hole transporting layer, an electron transporting layer, and the like, together with a layer functioning as a light emitting layer. However, these layers may not be necessary to be formed. Further, after forming the layer functioning as the light emitting layer, the layer generating electrons is formed, followed by forming the layer generating holes in Embodiment 1 and Embodiment 2. However, the method for manufacturing the light emitting element according to the present invention is not limited thereto. For example, after forming the layer generating the holes, the layer generating electrons may be formed, followed by forming a layer including a layer functioning as a light emitting layer.

[Embodiment 3]

[0139]

Methods for manufacturing six light emitting elements having different thicknesses of layers generating holes (i.e., a light emitting element (5), a light

emitting element (6), a light emitting element (7), a light emitting element (8), a light emitting element (9), a light emitting element (10), and a light emitting element (11)) and characteristics of these elements will be described in this embodiment with reference to FIG. 18.

[0140]

Indium tin oxide was formed over a substrate 771 by sputtering to form a second electrode 772 with a thickness of 110 nm. Note that a substrate made of glass was used as the substrate 771.

[0141]

Next, an 11<sup>th</sup> layer 773 including CuPC was formed on the second electrode 772 by vacuum evaporation of the CuPC. Here, the thickness was set to be 20 nm.

[0142]

A 12<sup>th</sup> layer 774 including NPB was next formed on the 11<sup>th</sup> layer 773 by vacuum evaporation of NPB. Here, the thickness was set to be 40 nm.

[0143]

Next, a 13<sup>th</sup> layer 775 including Alq<sub>3</sub> and coumarin 6 was formed on the 12<sup>th</sup> layer 774 by co-evaporation of Alq<sub>3</sub> and coumarin 6. The weight ratio of Alq<sub>3</sub> to coumarin 6 was adjusted to be 1 : 0.003 so that the coumarin 6 was dispersed in the Alq<sub>3</sub>. The thickness was set to be 40 nm.

[0144]

A second layer 776 including Alq<sub>3</sub> and lithium (Li) was next formed on the 13<sup>th</sup> layer 775 by co-evaporation of Alq<sub>3</sub> and lithium. The weight ratio of Alq<sub>3</sub> to lithium was adjusted to be 1 : 0.01 so that lithium was dispersed in Alq<sub>3</sub>. The thickness was set to be 30 nm.

[0145]

Next, a first layer 777 including NPB and molybdenum oxide was formed on the second layer 776 by co-evaporation of NPB and molybdenum oxide. The molar ratio between NPB and molybdenum oxide (i.e., NPB / molybdenum oxide) was set to be 1.25. At this moment, with respect to the light emitting element (5), the thickness was set to be 0 nm. That is, the first layer 777 was not formed in the light emitting

element (5). With respect to the light emitting element (6), the thickness was set to be 100 nm. With respect to the light emitting element (7), the thickness was set to be 120 nm. With respect to the light emitting element (8), the thickness was set to be 140 nm. With respect to the light emitting element (9), the thickness was set to be 160 nm. With respect to the light emitting element (10), the thickness was set to be 180 nm. With respect to the light emitting element (11), the thickness was set to be 200 nm.

[0146]

Subsequently, a first electrode 778 was formed on the first layer 777 by vacuum evaporation of aluminum. The thickness was set to be 100 nm.

[0147]

When the current flows through each of the above-manufactured light emitting elements by applying the voltage thereto such that a potential of the second electrode 772 is higher than that of the first electrode 778, holes generated in the first layer 777 are injected in the first electrode 778 while electrons generated in the second layer 776 are injected in the 13<sup>th</sup> layer 775. The holes are injected in the 11<sup>th</sup> layer 773 from the second electrode 772. The holes injected from the second electrode 772 and the electrons injected from the second layer 776 are recombined in the 13<sup>th</sup> layer 775, allowing coumarin 6 to emit light. Accordingly, the 13<sup>th</sup> layer 775 serves as a light emitting layer. Note that the 11<sup>th</sup> layer 773 serves as a hole injecting layer. The 12<sup>th</sup> layer 774 serves as a hole transporting layer. In each light emitting element of the present embodiment, the substances included in the 13<sup>th</sup> layer 775 and a substance with an electron transporting property included in the second layer 776 are both Alq<sub>3</sub> and have equivalent electron affinity.

[0148]

FIG. 19 shows the voltage-luminance characteristics of the light emitting elements according to the present embodiment, FIG. 20 shows the voltage-current characteristics thereof, and FIG. 21 shows the luminance-current efficiency characteristics thereof. In FIG. 19, a horizontal axis represents the voltage (V) while a perpendicular axis represents the luminance (cd/m<sup>2</sup>). In FIG. 20, a horizontal axis



represents the voltage (V) while a perpendicular axis represents the current (mA). In FIG. 21, a horizontal axis represents the luminance ( $\text{cd/m}^2$ ) while a perpendicular axis represents the current efficiency ( $\text{cd/A}$ ). In FIGS. 19, 20 and 21, marks  $\bullet$  indicate the characteristics of the light emitting element (5), marks  $\blacktriangle$  indicate the characteristics of the light emitting element (6), marks  $\Delta$  indicate the characteristics of the light emitting element (7), marks  $\blacksquare$  indicate the characteristics of the light emitting element (8), marks  $\square$  indicate the characteristics of the light emitting element (9), marks  $\diamond$  indicate the characteristics of the light emitting element (10), and marks  $\circ$  indicate the characteristics of the light emitting element (11), respectively.

[0149]

According to FIG. 20, it is understood that there is almost no difference in the amount of current that flows upon applying a given voltage even when the thicknesses of the first layers 777 having a function of generating holes are varied. Meanwhile, it is also understood that the magnitude of luminance upon applying a given voltage is varied greatly depending on the thicknesses of the first layers 777 according to FIG. 19.

[0150]

FIG. 22 is a graph in which the current efficiency ( $\text{cd/A}$ ) with respect to a distance (nm) between the 13<sup>th</sup> layer 775 and the first electrode 778 is plotted (marks  $\bullet$ ). The curve is an approximated curve showing the change in emission efficiency. Note that the current efficiency is obtained when the light emitting element emits light at the luminance of  $1,000 \text{ cd/m}^2$ . In FIG. 22, a horizontal axis represents the distance (nm) while a perpendicular axis represents the current efficiency ( $\text{cd/A}$ ). According to FIG. 22, it is understood that the current efficiency is changed depending on the distance between the 13<sup>th</sup> layer 775 and the first electrode 778 (i.e., a sum of the film thicknesses of the 13<sup>th</sup> layer 775, the second layer 776, and the first layer 777), and the current efficiency is gradually increased when the distance between the 13<sup>th</sup> layer 775 and the first electrode 778 is more than 200 nm. It is thought that this phenomenon is caused due to the effect of interference of light, wherein when an optical distance between a light emitting region and the first electrode (i.e.,  $\text{reflectance} \times \text{distance}$ ) is

$(2m-1)/4$  times (i.e.,  $1/4$ ,  $3/4$ ,  $5/4$  ... times) of the light emission wavelength, the light extraction efficiency is increased, whereas when the optical distance therebetween is  $m/2$  times (i.e.,  $1/2$ ,  $1$ ,  $3/2$  ... times) of the emission wavelength, the light extraction efficiency is decreased. Consequently, in the present embodiment, by setting the thickness of the first layer 777 to be more than 160 nm, generated light can be extracted to the outside effectively while preventing the short-circuiting between the electrodes. In addition, a light emitting element having slight increase in the resistance value that is caused by increase in thickness can be obtained.

[0151]

The results of measuring the change in emission spectrum depending on an angle of seeing a light emitting surface with respect to the light emitting elements (5), (7) and (11) are shown in FIGS. 23(A), (B), and (C), respectively. In FIGS. 23(A), (B), and (C), a horizontal axis represents a wavelength (nm) while a perpendicular axis represents the emission intensity (an arbitrary unit).

[0152]

The emission spectrum is measured by changing an angle of seeing the light emitting surface, i.e., an angle between a normal line to the light emitting surface and an normal line to an measurement surface, every  $10^\circ$  in a range of 0 to  $70^\circ$ .

[0153]

FIG. 23(A) shows the results of measuring the change in emission spectrum of the light emitting element (5). FIG. 23(B) shows the results of measuring the change in emission spectrum of the light emitting element (7). FIG. 23(C) shows the results of measuring the change in emission spectrum of the light emitting element (11).

[0154]

In FIG. 23(B), the emission spectrum is changed depending on the angle of seeing the light emitting surface, wherein when the angle is less than  $30^\circ$ , the emission spectrum shows a maximal value of the emission intensity at about 507 nm and when the angle is larger than  $40^\circ$ , the emission spectrum shows a maximal value of the emission intensity at about 555 nm. Accordingly, it is confirmed that the shape of the emission spectrum of the light emitting element (7) is largely changed depending on

the change in angle so that there is a significant change in emission spectrum depending on the angle of seeing the light emitting surface. On the other hand, in FIGS. 23(A) and 23(C), although the emission intensity is reduced with increasing angle of seeing the light emitting surface, the wavelength showing a maximal value of emission intensity is not changed. Accordingly, it is found that with respect to the light emitting elements (5) and (11), there is almost no variation in the shape of emission spectrum in accordance with the change in angle, resulting in slight variation in emission spectrum depending on the angle of seeing the light emitting surface.

[Brief Description of Drawings]

[0155]

[Name of Document] Drawings

[FIG. 1] A view showing a laminated structure of a light emitting element according to the present invention.

[FIG. 2] A view showing a laminated structure of a light emitting element according to the present invention.

[FIG. 3] A view explaining a light emitting device to which the present invention is applied.

[FIG. 4] A diagram explaining a circuit included in a light emitting device to which the present invention is applied.

[FIG. 5] A top view of a light emitting device to which the present invention is applied.

[FIG. 6] A diagram explaining a frame operation of a light emitting device to which the present invention is applied.

[FIG. 7] Cross sectional views of light emitting devices to which the present invention is applied.

[FIG. 8] Diagrams of electronic appliances to which the present invention is applied.

[FIG. 9] A graph of the voltage-luminance characteristics of a light emitting element according to the present invention.

[FIG. 10] A graph of the current density-luminance characteristics of a light emitting element according to the present invention.

[FIG. 11] A graph of the voltage-current characteristics of a light emitting element

according to the present invention.

[FIG. 12] A graph showing results obtained by measuring the change in voltage with time of a light emitting element according to the present invention.

[FIG. 13] A graph showing results obtained by measuring the change in luminance with time of a light emitting element according to the present invention.

[FIG. 14] A view showing a laminated structure of a light emitting element according to the present invention.

[FIG. 15] A view showing a laminated structure of a light emitting element according to the present invention.

[FIG. 16] A graph of the voltage-luminance characteristics of a light emitting element according to the present invention and a light emitting element of the comparative example.

[FIG. 17] A graph of the voltage-current characteristics of a light emitting element according to the present invention and a light emitting element of the comparative example.

[FIG. 18] A view showing a laminated structure of a light emitting element according to the present invention.

[FIG. 19] A graph of the voltage-luminance characteristics of a light emitting element according to the present invention.

[FIG. 20] A graph showing the voltage-current characteristics of a light emitting element according to the present invention.

[FIG. 21] A graph showing the luminance-current efficiency characteristics of a light emitting element according to the present invention.

[FIG. 22] A graph showing results obtained by measuring the change in current efficiency (cd/A) with respect to the distance (nm) from a 13<sup>th</sup> layer 775 to a first electrode 778.

[FIG. 23] Graphs showing results obtained by measuring the change in shape of emission spectrum depending on an angle of seeing a light emitting surface.

[FIG. 24] A view showing a laminated structure of a light emitting element according to the present invention.

[Explanation of References]

[0156]

- 101 first electrode
- 102 second electrode
- 111 first layer
- 112 second layer
- 113 third layer
- 121 electron transporting layer
- 122 light emitting layer
- 123 hole transporting layer
- 124 hole injection layer
- 201 first electrode
- 202 second electrode
- 211 first layer
- 212 second layer
- 213 third layer
- 222 light emitting layer
- 221 electron transporting layer
- 223 hole transporting layer
- 224 hole injection layer
- 6500 substrate
- 6503 FPC (flexible printed circuit)
- 6504 printed wiring board (PWB)
- 6511 pixel portion
- 6512 source signal line driver circuit
- 6513 writing gate signal line driver circuit
- 6514 erasing gate signal line driver circuit
- 901 first transistor
- 902 second transistor
- 903 light emitting element

- 911 gate signal line
- 912 source signal line
- 913 writing gate signal line driver circuit
- 914 erasing gate signal line driver circuit
- 915 source signal line driver circuit
- 916 power source
- 917 current supply line
- 918 switch
- 919 switch
- 920 switch
- 1001 first transistor
- 1002 second transistor
- 1003 gate signal line
- 1004 source signal line
- 1005 current supply line
- 1006 electrode
- 501 sub-frame
- 502 sub-frame
- 503 sub-frame
- 504 sub-frame
- 501a period
- 501b holding period
- 502a period
- 502b holding period
- 503a period
- 503b holding period
- 504a period
- 504b holding period
- 504c erasing period
- 504d non light emitting period

- 10 substrate
- 11 transistor
- 12 light emitting element
- 13 first electrode
- 14 second electrode
- 15 layer
- 16 interlayer insulating film
- 17 wiring
- 18 partition wall layer
- 19 interlayer insulating film
- 5521 main body
- 5522 housing
- 5523 display portion
- 5524 keyboard
- 5551 display portion
- 5552 main body
- 5553 antenna
- 5554 audio output portion
- 5555 audio input portion
- 5556 operation switch
- 5531 display portion
- 5532 housing
- 5533 speaker
- 701 substrate
- 702 second electrode
- 703 11<sup>th</sup> layer
- 704 12<sup>th</sup> layer
- 705 13<sup>th</sup> layer
- 706 14<sup>th</sup> layer
- 707 second layer

708 first layer  
709 first electrode  
731 substrate  
732 second electrode  
733 11<sup>th</sup> layer  
734 12<sup>th</sup> layer  
735 13<sup>th</sup> layer  
736 14<sup>th</sup> layer  
737 second layer  
738 first layer  
739 first electrode  
751 substrate  
752 second electrode  
753 11<sup>th</sup> layer  
754 12<sup>th</sup> layer  
755 13<sup>th</sup> layer  
756 14<sup>th</sup> layer  
757 second layer  
758 first electrode  
771 substrate  
772 second electrode  
773 11<sup>th</sup> layer  
774 12<sup>th</sup> layer  
775 13<sup>th</sup> layer  
776 second layer  
777 first layer  
778 first electrode

[Name of Document] Drawings

[FIG. 1]

[FIG. 2]



[FIG. 3]

[FIG. 4]

[FIG. 5]

[FIG. 6]

[FIG. 7]

[FIG. 8]

[FIG. 9]

[FIG. 10]

[FIG. 11]

[FIG. 12]

[FIG. 13]

[FIG. 14]

[FIG. 15]

[FIG. 16]

[FIG. 17]

[FIG. 18]

[FIG. 19]

[FIG. 20]

[FIG. 21]

[FIG. 22]

[FIG. 23]

[FIG. 24]

[Name of Document]      Abstract

[Abstract]

[Object]

An object of the present invention is to provide a light emitting element having slight increase in driving voltage with accumulation of light emitting time. Another object of the invention is to provide a light emitting element having slight increase in resistance value with increase in film thickness.

[Solving Means]

A light emitting element of the invention includes a first layer, a second layer, and a third layer between first and second electrodes facing to each other. The first layer, the second layer, and the third layer are laminated so as to sandwich the second layer between the first and third layers, the first layer is in contact with the first electrode, and the third layer is in contact with the second electrode. The first layer is a layer generating holes, and the second layer is a layer generating electrons. The second layer and the third layers are connected so as to inject electrons generated in the second layer into the third layer when applying a voltage to the light emitting element such that a potential of the second electrode is higher than that of the first electrode.

[Selected Figure]

Figure 1